

Claim Amendments

1-15. (Canceled)

16. (Currently Amended) A method of obtaining a solution of calcium ions from carbide lime, comprising

- (i) treating the carbide lime with an aqueous solution of a polyhydroxy compound of the formula $\text{HOCH}_2(\text{CHOH})_n\text{CH}_2\text{OH}$ in which n is 1 to 6; and
- (ii) optionally separating insoluble impurities from the solution resulting from (i).

17. (Canceled)

18. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 17 wherein insoluble impurities are separated from the solution resulting from (i).

C 19. (Canceled)

20. (Previously Presented) A method as claimed in claim 16, wherein the polyhydroxy compound is glycerol.

21. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 16, wherein the ~~sugar-alcohol~~ polyhydroxy compound is sorbitol, mannitol, xylitol, threitol or erythritol.

22. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 21 wherein the polyhydroxy compound is sorbitol.

23. (Previously Presented) A method as claimed in claim 16, wherein the polyhydroxy compound is employed as 10%-80% by weight solution in water.

24. (Previously Presented) A method as claimed in claim 21, wherein the polyhydroxy compound is employed as a 10% to 60% by weight solution.

25. (Previously Presented) A method as claimed in claim 20, wherein the glycerol is employed as a 60% to 80% by weight solution in water.

26. (Currently Amended) A method as claimed in claim 16, wherein the amount of lime is such as to provide 3-12 parts by weight per ~~10 to 80% by weight of the polyhydroxy compound~~ 100 parts by weight of the aqueous solution of the polyhydroxy compound.

27. (Previously Presented) A method as claimed in claim 16 effected at a temperature of 5°C-60°C.

28. (Currently Amended) A method of producing a calcium containing product comprising the steps of:

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- (i) preparing a solution of calcium ions according to the procedure of ~~any one of claims 1 to 12~~ claim 16; and
 - (ii) adding to the solution from (i) a precipitating agent which causes precipitation of the desired calcium containing product.

29. (Previously Presented) A method as claimed in claim 28, wherein the precipitating agent is carbon dioxide and the product obtained is precipitated calcium carbonate.

30. (Previously Presented) A method of producing precipitated calcium carbonate from carbide lime comprising:

- (i) treating the carbide lime with an aqueous solution of sorbitol to extract calcium from the carbide lime;
- (ii) separating the insoluble impurities from the solution resulting from (i); and
- (iii) treating the solution with carbon dioxide.

Applicants respectfully request timely examination of this application leading to allowance of all pending claims. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney by telephone if there are any questions about this Response or other issues that may be resolved in that fashion.

Respectfully submitted,

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